



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

File No. 115

Senate Bill No. 753

Senate, April 1, 2003

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. MCDONALD of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (2) of section 54-201 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (2) "Personal injury" means (A) actual bodily harm and mental
5 anguish which is the direct result of bodily injury and includes
6 pregnancy and any condition thereof, or (B) injury to a guide dog or
7 assistance dog owned or kept by a blind or disabled person.

This act shall take effect as follows:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
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JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Judicial Dept.	CICF - Cost	Less than 5,000	Less than 5,000

Note: CICF=Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill permits a blind or disabled person to apply for compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund¹ for an injury to a guide dog or service dog. Any impact on the fund as a result of the bill is anticipated to be minimal. The median amount of compensation received in a victim compensation claim is \$1,700. The FY 02 year ending balance of the fund was \$2.4 million.

¹ The fund receives an annual appropriation of about \$1.5 million, which comes primarily from costs imposed in misdemeanor and felony prosecutions in accordance with CGS Section 54-143. Additional money may come from the person directly responsible for a victim's criminal injuries or death.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 753

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows blind or disabled crime victims to receive victim compensation for injuries to their guide or assistance dog under the same circumstances as they may currently receive it for personal injuries.

By law, the Office of Victim Services may compensate crime victims, or their immediate families when the victim is deceased, incapacitated, or a minor child, for actual and reasonable expenses, lost wages, and pecuniary, and other losses resulting from injury or death. Maximum awards are \$15,000 for personal injuries and \$25,000 for death. Eligible victims must have been injured or killed during (1) their attempt to prevent crime, aid police, or apprehend suspects; (2) attempts to commit, or actual commissions of, crimes by another person; (3) international terrorism; or (4) another person's violation of enumerated motor vehicle offenses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 41 Nay 0